Southerner gets Agriculture dept appointment

WASHINGTON, D. C.—James P. Davis, former field representative of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, has been appointed an administrative officer in the Agriculture dept. Field Service branch, it was announced last week.

Davis, who was with AAA from 1935-45, will first assist Negro farm leaders in acquainting their fellow farmers with the protection offered their cotton crops through federal crop insurance. He will have offices in Little Rock, Ark., and travel through 9 Southern states in the next three months, visiting Negro farming communities.

Agriculture dept. officials also announced this week that Negro farmers living on back roads and in sparsely settled areas will benefit by recent Congressional action liberalizing the terms under which the Rural Electrification Administration may make loans for the electrification of farms and rural homes. Congress reduced the interest rate on loans to two percent and extended the repayment period from 25 to 35 years.

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Farm Credit Administration

THE DEEP SOUTH

The ——— Times

Failures Are Few Despite Very Poor Cotton Crop

New York, N.Y.

By GEORGE W. HEALY Jr.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 12—The South is harvesting its smallest crop of cotton in twenty-five years, with few cries of despair from the planters and farmers.

Bankruptcy faces some growers, but the proportion is small compared with the large segment of the people of the Cotton Belt who feared financial ruin at the end of various bad growing seasons in years past. Sun. 10-13-46

A new factor in the South's economy is crop insurance. Agents of the Farm Credit Administration say that many planters will be saved from foreclosure because they carried crop insurance this year.

Another factor is farm mechanization. Price McElmore, Alabama farmer, recently produced what he described as the first bale of cotton ever cultivated exclusively by mechanical methods for commercial purposes. Mr. McElmore expects to harvest eighty more bales from his eighty-three-acre mechanized farm, at a cost of 8 cents per pound. Thousands of other Southern farms and plantations have been partially mechanized since 1921.

A third factor in the Cotton Belt is diversification. Growers who ten years ago produced nothing but cotton are using their lands for oats and cover crops, and many cotton farmers are using parts of their places for the raising of cattle.

News Notes: Agents of the Southeastern area farm-security administration say that about 19,000 tenant or share-croppers have become farm owners in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina since 1940. . . . The end of wartime restrictions on travel has renewed the feud between two garden clubs at Natchez, Miss., over their respective pilgrimages.